

# FUQUAY-VARINA

# FOOTPRINTS

## OF THE PAST

PRESERVING FUQUAY-VARINA'S HERITAGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 • APRIL 2013

MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA

## Welcome to our newsletter

“What’s in a name?” We posed this question to students from local schools who toured the museums within the last year. We then asked teachers to enlist students in a project to name our newsletter. Teachers at Fuquay-Varina Middle School (FVMS) and Lafayette Elementary School organized this contest as a “teaching moment.” In all, eight classes participated.

At FVMS, three sixth and seventh-grade classes engaged in the contest. At Lafayette Elementary School, at least five teachers brought third-grade students to tour the museums, and all participated in the contest. Teachers organized this with parental input, class discussion, and even a contest within or among the classes.

Contest staff requested that students submit names which:

- reflected Fuquay-Varina’s museums,
- touched upon the history of our town,
- provided a catchy title, or
- referenced history.



Fuquay-Varina native and middle school teacher Vicki Capps Powell involves students in this project.

Otherwise, their creative minds were free to soar!

The Friends of the Museums Board was presented with 13 possible titles to review. Members considered student rationale for each suggestion. “The selection task was daunting,” said board president Max Ashworth.



Some Fuquay-Varina Middle School contest participants (*seated*) Samantha Molesworth, Brittany Lindsey; (*front row standing*) Jamilyn Borbas, Serenity Smith, Sarah Lockamy, Taylor Johnson, Luke Sowers, Ryan Burnett, Grant Kirkman; (*back row standing*) Janna Reeves, Justin Blanchard, Jazi Redmond, Jonah Pimentel

Museums director Shirley Simmons visited participating classes at FVMS to take group photos. Everyone from participating schools was invited to a hotdog cookout at the museums on April 12, 2013. Forty-three students, parents, teachers, docents, and board members attended. Without success, students and teachers alike tried to wrangle the winning suggestion from anyone who might know.

Congratulations to Taylor Johnson, a seventh-grader at FVMS, who submitted “Footprints of the Past,” the winning nomination. Taylor and her family attended the cookout where she received a \$25 prize for her suggestion.

About the newsletter naming contest, students said, “It made me feel connected with the town,” “I had a feeling of power,” and “Being asked to do this made me feel like an adult.”

Collectively, students and teachers alike all agreed, “It was fun”! Friends of the Museums Board members are grateful for student and teacher involvement and look forward to the newsletter’s long run.



Taylor Johnson, our contest winner.

## Meet our newsletter naming contest winner

Taylor Johnson, a seventh grader at Fuquay-Varina Middle School (FVMS), has definite ideas about history.

In submitting her entry, "Footprints of the Past," she said about her nomination, "I think about all of the people in the past who have created wonderful Fuquay-Varina memories. One of them I learned about at the museum is Virginia Arey ("Varina"), the girl for whom our town is partially named. For me, tracing footprints from our own town's past is fun."

Taylor received \$25 for her award-winning submission.

Taylor's proud parents are Nicole and Tom Choiniere and Brian Johnson of Fuquay-Varina. Taylor first visited the museums for a class project with teacher Vicki Capps Powell.

Several other suggestions were similar. Second place went to Samantha Molesworth of FVMS for her submission, "A Walk In The Past." Jonah Pimentel of FVMS submitted "Following Fuquay's Footsteps" for third place.

## Student visitors tell us...

Student groups touring the Museums of Fuquay-Varina generally send docents thank you notes which their teachers encourage as a learning experience. Many of them include artistic renderings illustrative of their tour.

Our staff shares excerpts from some of these in the hope that it will encourage other teachers to organize tours. [Contact us](#) to arrange a special visit. We'll have enough docents to escort your students and teach them about Fuquay-Varina's history.

Students in a sixth-grade, academically gifted class studying a book set in the 1930s sought a special tour. Our staff found artifacts illustrating their book and facts about life in Fuquay Springs and in Varina during the era. Here are some of their comments about their visit:

"We appreciate your taking your time researching and reading our book to make the field trip happen." —Sebastian Alex Karpp

"They learned so much and had a great time, too. It really made the '30s come alive. They also learned a lot about their home town."

—Shannon Oakes, teacher

These excerpted statements from Fuquay-Varina Middle School seventh-graders followed two days of tours which specialized in the town's history:

"Something I found interesting was how they taught cursive as their normal writing system." —Nicole Camacho

"Before the field trip, I didn't even know there was a museum in Fuquay. The actual museum building was also cool because of the models of things used in Fuquay-Varina."

These excerpts from Lafayette Elementary School third-graders followed two days of tours illustrating early life in the area:

"My favorite part was the school, because I love the old-timey books." —Maelyn

"If we ever come back to see all those things and artifacts that were in the displays in their cases, I'll come with my family."  
—Tyler Beasley



Seventh-grade teachers from Fuquay-Varina Middle School brought classes on an investigative historical tour. Teacher and Fuquay-Varina native Eva Powell Daniels looks on with a parent as students examine artifacts in the Ballentine Schoolhouse.



## Museums of Fuquay-Varina Go Interactive

A Fuquay-Varina company will create and post online a virtual tour of the Museums of Fuquay-Varina.

EducateVia360, founded by Fuquay-Varina native Woody Howard, uses today's technology to educate today's students using interactive, online video tours. The company seeks to allow every student the opportunity to virtually visit numerous interesting sites that they may never get the opportunity to visit while in school (or on their own). Woody and his team offer a means of interactive discovery never before provided.

Check-out their [website](#) to see some of their offerings, and [visit their Facebook page](#) for more information. Consider using their virtual tours in your school.

In EducateVia360's programs:

- Every fact box offers narration, assisting the development of reading skills.
- Printable online quizzes are instantly graded, with correct answers revealed.
- Each tour contains web links to additional resources to aid in lesson preparation.
- Interactive, self-directed tours allow students to explore and learn at their own pace.

When EducateVia360 posts our virtual field trip, we will post the link on our website.

The Board of Directors of the Museums of Fuquay-Varina gives special thanks and appreciation to Woody Howard who invited us to participate and who will create our online tour.

## We want you: Senior groups/organizations

Many citizens have told us that they are not aware of our [Fuquay-Varina museum Complex](#). We have the following set up especially for seniors.

Our museums complex:

This includes tours of our three contiguous buildings (121-131 South Fuquay Avenue): the [Squire Ballentine Schoolhouse](#), [Fuquay Springs Post Office](#), and the [Centennial History Museum](#).

- Experienced docents guide your tour.
- A full tour lasts about 2-3 hours.
- Two buildings have no climate control, so please consider the appropriate weather and time of year for your visit.
- For your convenience, we provide guided tours during the morning, in the afternoon, or at night—whatever works best for your group.
- We divide larger groups into smaller parties to provide your seniors with better access to our exhibits and to our knowledgeable docents.
- All buildings are handicapped accessible but do require movement from place to place.



Step-on tours of Fuquay Springs and Varina: This tour includes both business districts, The Mineral Spring area, Fuquay-Varina Historic District, churches, and schools.

- This tour provides you with an on-board docent for your bus or van.
- You determine how much time you want to allow for a tour, and we will schedule accordingly.
- We provide on-board tours in the mornings or afternoons. Some groups want a lunch stop, and we will gladly oblige.
- For persons who did not grow up in the area, this tour has proven very interesting.
- Our narration includes stories of buildings, houses, and historic sites (including churches).
- Should your group involve more than one vehicle, we will enlist a second docent or you may want to consider touring on two separate days.

If it's better for your group, consider a one-day combination of our museum-site tour and our on-board tour of Fuquay-Varina. Your seniors might enjoy lunch in one of our downtown restaurants between their tours.

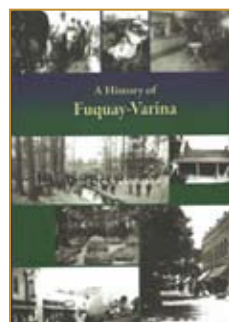
Please [contact us](#) to arrange tours specially adapted for your group's needs. We look forward to serving our seniors in whatever ways they require.

## Gifts from Fuquay-Varina

When you're looking for something representative of our town to share with friends, out-of-town relatives, or town visitors, remember to come to the museums at 131 South Fuquay Avenue. We have something for you.

**WAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS MAP:** This large-format printout of Rev. W. G. Clements' 1904 map provides a historical study of roads, railways, schools, and churches in Wake County. Rev. Clements was the first person elected Superintendent of Wake County Public Schools, served as pastor at Wake Chapel Christian Church in Fuquay-Varina, and taught in our local Oakwood School.

The original comes from the State Archives of North Carolina. Our prints are suitable for framing. J. C. Knowles, tireless champion of education, volunteer for numerous civic organizations, and endless fount of North Carolina history, donated these prints to the museums. We gladly accept your donations in exchange for a map.



**A HISTORY OF FUQUAY-VARINA:** This exhaustive history of Fuquay-Varina is the museums' best seller. It was published in 2009, our centennial year. While we are collecting mistaken information and additions of new facts, we do not have plans to reprint at present. The book can be purchased also in person at [David Anthony's](#). Books are \$20.

**FUQUAY-VARINA NOTECARDS:** We offer two wonderful sets of pen-and-ink prints on notecards at the museums. These feature the work of Tom Tate, Newton Prince, and Trixie Porter. A set includes two copies each of five different prints and sells for \$12. We also offer a limited number of individual cards and envelopes for \$2 each.



**FUQUAY-VARINA WOMAN'S CLUB CENTENNIAL COOKBOOK:** These make wonderful wedding presents or bridal shower gifts. This book features recipes from all five previous cookbooks published by the club from the 1950s to 2009. If you grew up in Fuquay-Varina, you will likely find a recipe from someone you have known, perhaps even a relative. Your purchase includes a plastic holder for countertop use.

**FRIENDS OF FUQUAY-VARINA MUSEUMS MEMBERSHIP:** Consider [individual, family, or life membership](#) for you, your friends, and for out-of-town family. Your membership supports our educational initiatives and helps preserve our archives.



**FUQUAY-VARINA CENTENNIAL BANNER:** This large, now-sentimental item hung on the town's lamp posts in 2009, our centennial year. Fly it proudly from your porch, place it in your yard, or use it at your business to promote our town. Those who purchase life memberships in The Friends of the Museums receive a banner gratis, and we have some for sale at the museums.

**CENTENNIAL YEAR MEMORABILIA:** The museums still have a limited number of precious, keepsake, Centennial Year items.

Consider purchasing a 2009 calendar which features historic photographs of Fuquay-Varina and facts about the area's history. These are reduced to \$5.00.

We also sell white centennial T-shirts (short-sleeved) and sweatshirts (long-sleeved) emblazoned with our centennial logo (limited sizes available). These are a bargain at \$5.

**MUSEUMS OF FUQUAY-VARINA POSTCARDS:** These feature either a vintage photograph of the mineral spring at Fuquay Springs or of our post office museum (created by Melodie Estes). Each sells for \$1.

Each month, J. C. Knowles leaves free copies of his paper, *The Spring*, which features a wealth of history, current information, and local photographs. Share one with out-of-town relatives and former town residents.